



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA OBSERVATORIES/LICK OBSERVATORY  
DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

September 17, 2007

Professor Henry Sobel  
Chair, Dark Matter Scientific Assessment Group

Dear Hank:

The AAAC would like to thank you and your committee for your very thorough and detailed report. The DMSAG report reflects a major investment of time and intellectual effort by the committee members. We particularly appreciate the effort the committee put into explaining the background and motivation for the study of dark matter, elucidating the role of direct detection in establishing the nature of dark matter, soliciting input from the broad community interested in dark matter and its direct detection, and providing clear recommendations on how to proceed over the next few years. The report provides a particularly valuable set of findings, recommendations and priorities.

The AAAC has voted to accept it and transmit it to the agencies for their consideration. We will be discussing with the agencies the steps that they plan to take to respond to the report. We have asked them to make full use of the recommendations in your report when they develop plans relating to dark matter direct detection activities, and when proposals are reviewed for programs in the areas covered by your report, and to keep us apprised of progress in this area.

We also appreciated your willingness to visit with the AAAC and to keep us updated on the DMSAG committee's progress with presentations at AAAC meetings.

The guidance provided by your report will be particularly important for the agencies, OSTP, OMB, Congress and the scientific community as plans are developed to move forward on dark matter direct-detection projects expeditiously and cost-effectively. We deeply appreciate the time and effort that you and the task force members put into making the DMSAG report such an excellent product.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Garth D. Illingworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom.

Garth D. Illingworth,  
Chair, Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

Cc:

NSF: Tony Chan, Joseph Dehmer, Wayne Van Citters, Jonathan Kotcher, Eileen Friel,  
Dana Lehr

DOE: Robin Staffin, Kathleen Turner, Randy Johnson, Glen Crawford, P.K. Williams,  
Dennis Kovar, Gene Henry, Jehanne Simon-Gillo

OSTP: Kathryn Beers

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Frank Calaprice  
Gabriel Chardin  
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Hamish Robertson  
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